[31st October 1933

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" Is it suggested that lack of attendance at a rural dispensary is a disqualification and a sufficient reason for denying medical relief to that village? "

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI :—" Dispensaries are closed at one place and reopened at other places where they are found to be more useful."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" So, is it necessary for every rural dispensary started by the Government to be attended by some people suffering from some disease? "

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI :—" No, Sir. The necessity for medical aid is so great in this Presidency that it is desirable to transfer the dispensaries to places more convenient and accessible."

Mr. V. T. ARASU :—" May I know whether in the case of certain taluk boards, Government have not thought fit to close down the dispensaries though the usual attendance therein was considerably less than 12? "

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI :—" No, Sir. According to the report of the Surgeon-General these are the nineteen dispensaries where the attendance has fallen below 12."

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I know whether in these nineteen cases, the fall of attendance was due to the incapacity of the doctors in charge of them? "

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI :—" I have no information."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" May I know whether, before closing down the dispensaries, the Government examined whether the fall in the attendance was due to more than one cause? "

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI :—" The Surgeon-General sometimes visits them himself and in other cases he gets reports from the District Medical Officers as to the work done at the dispensaries during a course of years; then Government come to a conclusion whether a dispensary is to be closed."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" May I ask how many of these nineteen dispensaries are allopathic and how many non-allopathic? ".

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI :—" I have no information."

Mr. V. T. ARASU :—" Will the hon. the Minister be pleased to state why in the case of certain taluk boards this rule has not been enforced? "

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI :—" I have already answered that question. All cases reported by the Surgeon-General have been closed."

Rule as to the closure of the outer gates of the General Hospital, Madras.

* 190 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that there is a rule in the Government General Hospital at Madras that the outer gates should be closed after

10 p.m. and should not be opened except with the express permission of the House Surgeon who is on duty then;

(b) if so, whether it is in force or whether it is merely a dead letter; and

(c) if it is in force, whether it is strictly observed and, if not, why not?

A.—(a) Yes; but it is the Assistant Surgeon on duty who is the authority to grant permission for opening the gate after 10 p.m. and not the House Surgeon.

(b) It is in force.

(c) The rule is being strictly observed.

Public Health and Sanitation

Progress of the scheme for the supply of drinking water from the Mettur Reservoir to Salem town.

* 191 Q.—Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) at what stage the scheme for the drinking water-supply to Salem town from Mettur Reservoir is;

(b) whether orders have been passed for the preparation of detailed plans and estimates in this behalf;

(c) if the answer to clause (b) be in the negative, what the delay is due to;

(d) when the work is expected to be taken up and what the approximate time to complete it will be; and

(e) what amount of grant and what amount as loan do the Government propose to give for this work?

A.—(a) to (e) A reference is being issued to the municipal council asking whether it is prepared to agree to finance the scheme on the basis of a half grant and half loan. No orders have yet been passed for the preparation of detailed plans and estimates as the financing of the scheme has not been finally settled. If the council agrees to the proposals of the Government and if a special establishment is sanctioned, it will take more than a year to complete the preparation of detailed plans and estimates. The execution of the scheme may take six years. If the scheme is finally approved, the Government grant and loan for the work, will each amount to Rs. 11 lakhs.

Supply of drinking water from Mettur Reservoir to Salem town.

* 192 Q.—Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) in what stage the scheme to supply drinking water to Salem town from Mettur Reservoir is;

(b) whether the scheme has been sanctioned and plans and estimates have been called for; and